



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the State of Louisiana has the most unique, inviting, and beautiful waterways, enjoyed by many, consisting of lakes, rivers, bayous, and coastal waters; and

**WHEREAS,** the people of Louisiana take pride in and full advantage of the opportunities provided by our waterways for hunting, fishing, boating and other recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS,** the latest available statistics rank Louisiana tenth in the nation in the number of recreational boating accidents, up significantly from previous years, and fifth in the nation in recreational boating deaths, down slightly from previous years;

and

**WHEREAS,** seventy percent of the people who are killed in boating accidents nationwide are not wearing lifejackets; in Louisiana twenty-five percent are not wearing lifejackets; and is thus these tragedies are preventable.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 22-28, 2004, as

### SAFE BOATING WEEK

in the state of Louisiana, and encourage the citizens of this wonderful State to "Boat Smart, Boat Safe and WEAR IT", by supporting boating safety measures, have their boats and equipment inspected, take a boating safety course conducted by governmental agencies and by civic groups, such as the U.S Coast Guard Auxiliary, The U.S. Power Squadron, or the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and insure all persons on board watercraft wear lifejackets while on the water.



Attest By  
The Governor

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco*  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April  
A.D., 2004.*

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco*  
Governor of Louisiana